Youth's Department.

Conducted by Lottie Holsinger.

A Little Thing.

It was such a little thing—
One slight twist of crimson string;
But 'twas stealing all the same,
And the child who took it knew
That she told what was not true.
Just to screen herself from blame;
First a theft and then a lie—
Both recorded up on high.

It was but one little word,
Softly spoken scarcely heard,
Uttered by a single breath:
But it dared to take in vain
God's most high and holy name,
So provoking wrath and death.
Soon the lips once fresh and fair.
Opened but to curse and swear,

It was but one little blow—
Passions sudden overflow;
Scarcely heeded in its fall;
But, once loosed, the fiery soul
Would no longer brook control;
Laws it spurned, defied them all,
Till the hands—love clasped in vain—
Wore the murderer's crimson stain.

Ah! it is the foxes small,
Slyly climbing o'er the wall,
That destroy the tender vines,
And it is the spark of fire,
Brightning, growing, curling higher,
That across the forest shines.
Just so, step by step, does sin,
If unchecked, a triumph win.

Our Scripture Lesson For Dec. 14th.

Read Eccles. 2:1—8.

The truths which we learn from this lesson are that worldly wisdom, worldly attainments, and worldly pleasures are folly and vanity; that we can find no real happiness without looking to God who is the Giver of everything that is profitable to us. It is not the design of our Father that his children should be unhappy in this world, that their lives be filled with gloom and sorrow, neither does he intend that we pursue pleasures as our chief aim. All the beautiful things of earth are ours to enjoy, and a judicious use of them will give us the greatest happiness.

Pleasure does not consist in wealth, nor in the mere possession of wisdom; we may be as rich as Croesus, and as wise as Solomon and yet be very unhappy.

Behold Solomon in all his glory. Behold him surrounded with all that wealth and wisdom could bestow, and hear him say all is vanity and vexation of spirit.

There are many grades in society. A man may start in the lowest circle of society and climb to the highest pinnacle to which a mortal can attain, and when he looks back over the distance which he has traveled, and remembers the dissatisfaction that he felt at each step and his discontent in the highest honors the world can give, he realizes that all is vanity. Alexander, who loved and delighted in war, after he had the whole world at his feet, is said to have wept because there were no more nations for him to conquor. He had reached the height of his ambition, and his reward was vexation of spirit. There is something in man that cannot be satisfied by the gratification of appetites—a something that impels him ever onward, and he may exhaust every source of earthly pleasure and this same indwelling principle will cause him to exclaim, "All is vanity." This something of which we speak is called *soul*, and if our lives are not lived according to the laws which govern our spirits, and secure for them bright prospects for a happy future beyond the grave, we have lived in vain; and at the going down of the last sun of life we cry out, "All is vanity." Solomon tried everything of which he could conceive that he might, as he tells us, find out the chief good of the sons of men. He made great works, builded houses, planted vineyards, gardens, orchards, and all manner of fruit trees. He had servants, beautiful cattle, gold, silver, and peculiar treasures of kings and provinces. He also had male and female singers, and all sorts of musical instruments. In short he tried everything that promised pleasure, and what does he give as the result of all his efforts to obtain happiness? "Behold all was vanity and vexation of spirit; and there was no profit *under the sun*.

We should seek to obtain that true wisdom; which is a knowl edge of Jesus and his saving grace. We have seen the folly of all that is earthly. We have seen that the soul is not satisfied with any worldly acquisition; therefore we should seek first the kingdom of heaven; we should prune off all our sinful habits; should seek to make others happy rather than ourselves, then we will realize how sweet are the blessings which we enjoy. Our hearts will swell with gratitude to God for his tender mercies.

Little boys and little girls should give their hearts to Jesus rather than to vanity and folly, and if they be faithful to the Savior, he will be faithful to them; and they will grow up men and women honored and respected by all, and when they are called upon to leave this world and behold how nobly they have lived, and find their Savior waiting to welcome them home they will say with Solomon: "Wisdom excelleth folly as far as light exceedeth darkness."

Dear Chidren: I can now appreciate your feelings as you anticipate the coming of the EVANGELIST, and when it is tardy and I do not get it at the expected time, I, too, feel like writing to headquarters and ask, "Why don't my paper come?"

Where are our scrap books? We printed a poem this week that appeared in a back number.

We are now approaching the greatest time of the year, and we should be better girls and boys as we must necessarily think of others. The birth day of Him is approaching, who has done more for us than any human being could do; for He has died and now lives. And then as we draw near the close of this year we should feel that we have improved some, and quietly make up our minds to be better, live better lives in the next year than we have in the one that is so rapidly passing away.

Our parents and most grown people make much ado about making resolves. Some smile and say, "yes. and that is the end of it, a resolve quickly made, easily broken." We will not *say* what we will do or be, but everytime we have the opportunity we will try to be as good as we can, and everytime we do this we become better, and by and by we will not find trying to be good to be such very hard work.

Which one of my little friends will write something about Christmas?

When I return to the EVANGELIST office I will take great pleasure in telling you about these grand old purple hills of Pennsylvania, which contain so much that is pleasant to dream of for her sons and daughters that have moved to other hills and some on the prairie lands of our country that seem so fair to all, before they have experienced living there.

Letters from the Children.

Dear Lottie: I now attempt to write my first letter. I hope you can read it. I am yet a poor writer. Am nine years old. I have two brothers and one little sister. Perry, Harvey and Gracie. Perry and I go to school every day. I met your pa last summer when he preached at the U. B. church. I do love to hear him preach. I am so glad that I can see him next Sunday at the dedication of our new church. Will you not come along with him, Lottie? I wish you would, I would like to see you. I will drop in ten cents for the Dew Drop club. Good bye. JOSIE CLAPPER.

Louisville, Ohio, Dec. 1st.

A Sermon.

TEXT: Isaiah i, 17: "Learn to do well"

Boys and girls you can obey this text by trying to do well today, and to-morrow and the next day. It is the same as learning to skate. You fall and rise again. You fall but try again. After a little while you can stand, and then can push out one foot, and by and by the other, until at last away you go, gliding over the ice like the wind.

Learning to do well is like learning to swim. You wade into the water, but not very far for fear you will drown. You try to swim, but sink. You try again, and do a little better. You swallow a good deal of water; it gets into your ears, and eyes and nose, but you keep on splashing, and finally can swim. So you must keep on doing well until you learn how and it has become a habit. A habit is something which we have that is what the word means. It often becomes something which has us.

A habit is formed in the same way that paths and roads are. You often see people "cutting across lots." Where they do this a narrow strip of grass about a foot or fourteen inches wide, will soon be trodden to death, and a narrow strip of ground, about the same width beneath it will be trodden hard, and that is a path. It is made by being walked over again and again, and again. You can soon get into the habit of doing a thing by doing it over and over, many times. The more you do it the easier it will become, just as a path grows wider and plainer the more it is traveled. It is hard to keep people from going across lots after a path is once made. and so it is hard to stop doing what we have fallen into the habit of doing. It will not be easy for you to "do well" after you have once learned to do wrong. Bad habits are like the ruts made by carriage wheels in county roads; they hold people fast. I once read of an old man who had crooked fingers. When a boy his hand was as limber as yours. He could open it easily, but for fifty years he drove a stage, and his fingers got so in the habit of shutting down on the lines and whip, that they finally stayed shut. The old man can never open his hand again.

Boys, if you do not wish to fall into the habit of swearing, refuse to swear at all. If you do not wish to become the slaves of tobacco, let cigarettes alone. If you do not wish to die drunkards, never begin to tipple. If you do these things even a few times, they may become habits and hold you fast. You would then smoke and swear and drink without knowing it or knowing why. "Learn to do well," but "abhor that which is evil."—*Christian Advocate.*

Bishop Kyle and the Blind Child.

Bishop Kyle, of England, says the happiest child he ever saw was a little girl eight years old, who was quite blind.

She had never seen the sun nor moon nor stars, grass nor flowers, nor trees nor birds, nor any of those pleasant things which gladden your eyes all your life. More trying still, she had never seen her father or mother, yet she was the happiest child of all the thousands the bishop had seen.

She was journeying on the railway this day I speak of. No one she knew was with her, not a friend nor a relation to take care of her; yet, though totally blind, she was quite happy and content.

"Tell me," she said to some near by, "how many people there are in this car. I am quite blind and can see nothing." And she was told.

"And are you not afraid to travel alone?" asked the gentleman.

"No" she replied, "I am not frightened; I have travelled before, and I trust in God, and the people are always kind to me."

"But tell me," said the bishop, "why are you so happy?"

"I love Jesus and he loves me; I sought Jesus and I found him," was the reply.

The bishop then began to talk to her about the Bible, and found she knew a great deal about it.

"And how did you learn so much of the Bible," he asked.

"My teacher used to read it to me and I remembered all I could," she said.

"What part of the Bible do you like best?" asked the bishop.

"I like the story of Christ's life in the Gospels," she said, "but what I like best of all is the last three chapters of Revelations."

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Keuka, Florida, Oct. 23, 1884.
Dear Bro.—Could you send me a bottle of your Uterine by mail? It is highly recommended to my wife. * * * * Yours truly, J. H. MOORE.
[NOTE.—Yes, it is highly recommended by those who have tried the Uterine, but it has not been advertised much, and is, therefore, known only to those who have used it and heard it spoken of.—P.F.]

From the Nation's Capital.
Washington, D. C., Oct. 28, 1884.
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Most respectfully. W. C. COLE.

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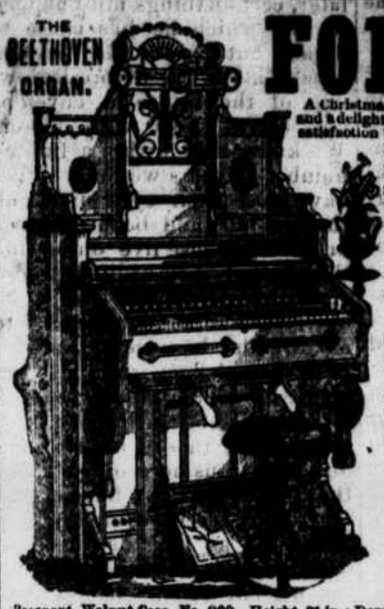
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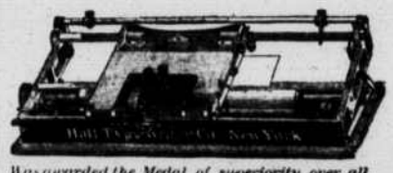
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